



Attorney Docket 37808-0006 (formerly 015358/0104)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of:

Takeshi OGINO et al.

Group Art Unit: 1771

Serial No.: 09/485,675

Examiner: Alexis A. Wachtel

Filed: February 24, 2000

Confirmation No.: 9758

Title: MOISTURE-ABSORBENT/RELEASABLE HEAT-GENERATING
INTERMEDIATE MATERIAL, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME, AND
MOISTURE-ABSORBENT/RELEASABLE HEAT-GENERATING HEAT-RETAINING
ARTICLE

REQUEST FOR THREE MONTH EXTENSION TO TIME,
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Applicants respectfully the Assistant Commissioner of Patent for a three-month extension of time to file a response to the office action, mail dated march 6, 2002 (Paper No. 6), with regard to the above-captioned patent application, to extend the period for filing a response to this action up to and including September 6, 2002. Please debit any underpayments, or credit any overpayments, to firm deposit account no. 08-1641. Applicants request reconsideration and allowance in view of the following amendments and remarks.

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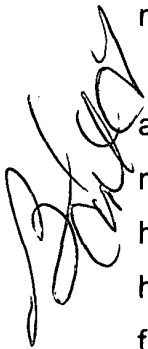
AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

In response to the office action mailed March 6, 2002 (Paper No. 6), applicants respectfully request entry of the following amendments to the claims and request reconsideration of the rejections of record in view of these amendments and applicants' remarks below.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel claims 1-15 without prejudice or disclaimer and add the following claims:

--16. A heat-retaining article worn over a human body surface, comprising an outer material and an inner lining, with a moisture-absorbing heat generating intermediate material inserted there between;

 wherein the moisture-absorbing heat generating intermediate material comprises a first heat-retaining fiber having at least 50 ml of air per gram of moss and a second moisture-absorbing heat generating fiber, the moisture absorbing heat generating fiber having an inherent minimum moisture content, and wherein the moisture-absorbing heat-generating fiber is homogeneously blended and dispersed with the heat-retaining fiber, whereby the moisture absorbing heat-generating fiber generates heat upon absorbing moisture discharged from the human body surface, and the immobile air layer formed by the heat-retaining fiber retains heat.

17. A heat-retaining article worn over a human body surface as described in claim 16, wherein the moisture-absorbing heat generating fiber comprises a polyacrylate-series fiber prepared from acrylic fiber by crosslinking the polyacrylate-series fiber with a nitrogen containing compound followed by hydrolysis of uncrosslinked residues.